

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs). These programmes are run in a time bound manner.

(b) According to the information received from Madhya Pradesh Government, the literacy programmes are being implemented in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) 42 districts in Madhya Pradesh have been released funds for literacy programmes. Final instalments are released subject to settlement of accounts and submission of utilisation certificates. In 9 districts accounts have been settled and final instalment released.

University status to Colleges

4665. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to accord university status to some colleges in the country is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken so far;

(c) whether the historic Ravenshaw College, Cuttack is one such college which is proposed to be given university status; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The UGC is considering proposals received from some institutions for accord of Deemed to be University status with reference to the minimum eligibility criteria, in terms of objectives, programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc. as laid down in the UGC guidelines.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal in this regard has been considered by an Expert Committee of the UGC which has pointed out certain deficiencies. The College has been advised to take steps to rectify the deficiencies and send the final compliance report.